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RETAIL PRICES AND WAGE RATES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1967

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Introduction

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services as affecting a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of privately owned and government owned houses, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is year 1952-53 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1967

There was an increase of 1.7 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from June quarter 1967 to September quarter 1967, the index number for All Groups rising from 145.5 to 148.0. This was the largest increase since September quarter 1965, when an increase of 1.9 per cent was recorded. For the twelve months ended September 1967, the All Groups increase was 3.9 per cent.

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between June quarter 1967 and September quarter 1967 is shown below.

Food Group

The Food Group of the index increased from 155.7 to 159.0, a rise during the quarter of 2.1 per cent. Price increases were recorded for meat, bread, potatoes, sugar, and soft drinks.

Clothing and Drapery Group

This group index rose 0.4 per cent from 125.1 to 125.6. The chief increase was in footwear.

Housing Group

The Housing Group index rose from 164.2 to 171.0, an increase of 4.1 per cent. The rise was chiefly due to increased costs of Local Authority rates and charges.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

This group index showed an increase of 0.3 per cent, from 117.2 to 117.6.

Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group showed a rise of 1.6 per cent. The index rose from 156.9 to 159.4. Increases in beer prices, cinema admission charges, and motoring expenses were the main reasons for this rise.

The Consumer Price Index increased in all State Capitals from June quarter 1967 to September quarter 1967. Percentage increases were as follows: Hobart, 2.7; Brisbane, 1.7, Sydney, 1.4; Melbourne, 1.3; Adelaide, 1.2; and Perth, 0.4.

Since the base year, 1952-53, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Brisbane and smallest in Sydney. Percentage increases from 1952-53 to September quarter 1967 were as follows: Brisbane, 48.0; Hobart, 47.2; Melbourne, 44.8; Perth, 40.7; Adelaide, 40.5; and Sydney, 39.7. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 42.5 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate industrial authorities from time to time, and prevailing basic wage rates (which used to be determined in part by price movements) were shown in issues of this Bulletin up to March quarter 1967. A recent decision of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to eliminate the separate concepts of basic wage and margins from its awards removed any remaining link between the index numbers and wage rates. The Commission added \$1 per week to all wage rates for adult males and females prescribed under existing awards, the increases to operate from the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 1967.

Following the Commonwealth wage judgment, the industrial authorities of the various States have granted wage increases to employees under their awards. In Queensland, the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission increased wage rates by \$1 per week by way of a "general ruling" which applied from 3 July 1967. In all other States likewise, excepting Western Australia, the increase applied was \$1 per week for adult males and adult females.

In Western Australia the minimum weekly wage payable to adult male workers under certain awards was increased by \$1 per week, and wage rates for adult males and females not in receipt of the minimum wage were increased by 60 cents per week, as from the beginning of the first pay period commencing on or after 1 July 1967.

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Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>						
1957-58 ..	113.0	107.8	123.9	108.3	120.5	114.4
1958-59 ..	119.8	109.4	128.4	109.0	123.6	118.2
1959-60 ..	124.2	111.9	132.6	110.6	125.6	121.2
1960-61 ..	130.4	115.1	137.6	111.3	129.5	125.4
1961-62 ..	130.8	116.7	140.5	113.0	133.3	127.3
1962-63 ..	129.8	117.0	144.0	112.8	134.4	127.7
1963-64 ..	133.1	117.8	145.2	111.7	135.2	129.0
1964-65 ..	141.5	119.5	149.0	112.7	140.9	133.9
1965-66 ..	150.9	121.0	158.3	115.0	148.7	140.4
1966-67 ..	153.5	123.7	162.8	116.5	155.8	144.0
<u>Quarter</u>						
1966: September	151.0	122.4	161.1	116.0	154.7	142.5
December	152.8	123.4	162.5	116.2	155.5	143.6
1967: March ..	154.3	123.8	163.2	116.5	156.0	144.4
June ..	155.7	125.1	164.2	117.2	156.9	145.5
September	159.0	125.6	171.0	117.6	159.4	148.0

Percentage Increase or Decrease (-) on Previous Quarter

<u>Quarter</u>						
1966: September	-0.1	0.2	0.9	-0.1	1.8	0.6
December	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.8
1967: March ..	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6
June ..	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
September	2.1	0.4	4.1	0.3	1.6	1.7

Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities
(Year 1952-53 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average Six State Capitals
<u>Year</u>							
1957-58 ..	114.5	114.4	114.4	111.9	113.6	117.0	114.2
1958-59 ..	115.3	116.6	118.2	114.5	114.7	118.7	116.0
1959-60 ..	117.8	120.0	121.2	118.0	116.9	120.8	118.9
1960-61 ..	122.1	125.9	125.4	122.9	121.2	127.5	123.8
1961-62 ..	122.6	126.3	127.3	122.5	121.6	128.1	124.3
1962-63 ..	123.2	126.2	127.7	122.1	122.2	128.0	124.5
1963-64 ..	124.5	127.1	129.0	123.5	123.8	129.4	125.7
1964-65 ..	128.8	132.2	133.9	128.6	127.6	133.6	130.4
1965-66 ..	133.1	137.1	140.4	132.7	132.5	138.3	135.2
1966-67 ..	136.3	140.7	144.0	136.9	137.9	141.2	138.8
<u>Quarter</u>							
1966: September	134.7	139.1	142.5	135.0	136.3	139.2	137.1
December	136.2	140.1	143.6	136.5	136.9	140.1	138.4
1967: March ..	136.4	140.7	144.4	137.2	138.3	142.0	138.9
June ..	137.8	142.9	145.5	138.9	140.1	143.3	140.6
September	139.7	144.8	148.0	140.5	140.7	147.2	142.5

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food and Grocery Items, Brisbane

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1966	July 1967	August 1967	September 1967
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>Groceries etc.</u>					
Bread, white (unwrapped & delivered)	2 lb loaf	16.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Flour, plain	2 lb pkt	12.7	13.6	13.7	13.7
Flour, self-raising	2 lb pkt	15.6	16.1	16.2	16.0
Tea	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	30.9	30.9	30.9	30.9
Coffee, instant	2 oz jar	44.6	42.5	44.2	42.6
Cocoa	8 oz pkt	31.5	29.6	31.5	32.0
Sugar	4 lb pkt	37.3	43.4	43.4	43.4
Rice	1 lb pkt	13.1	13.5	13.6	13.5
Jam, plum	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin	24.2	24.3	24.5	24.5
Jam, marmalade	$1\frac{1}{2}$ lb tin	26.7	27.5	27.7	27.9
Honey, liquid	16 oz jar	27.0	27.6	27.2	27.6
Oats, rolled	2 lb pkt	38.2	38.9	38.3	37.8
Cornflakes	1 lb pkt	34.8	35.7	35.6	35.1
Sultanas	1 lb pkt	34.3	35.3	35.2	35.6
Peaches, canned	29 oz tin	30.8	30.7	30.9	30.8
Pears, canned	29 oz tin	30.7	31.6	30.7	30.8
Sardines, Norwegian	$3\frac{3}{4}$ oz tin	15.7	16.0	15.8	16.4
Salmon, local	16 oz tin	41.2	42.6	43.2	43.2
Camp Pie	12 oz tin	20.0	20.4	20.4	19.7
Potatoes	7 lb	38.6	59.0	52.8	53.7
Onions	1 lb	9.6	8.1	8.2	9.1
Soap, laundry	20 oz pkt	33.8	33.2	32.2	33.7
Vegemite	4 oz jar	26.9	27.8	27.2	27.3
Baby Food, canned	$4\frac{1}{2}$ oz tin	8.8	9.6	9.6	9.6
Peanut Paste	4 oz jar	18.3	18.3	18.3	18.3
Peas, green, canned	$15\frac{1}{2}$ oz tin	23.0	23.0	23.0	20.3
Peas, frozen	10 oz pkt	29.5	27.6	27.0	27.6
Beans, baked, canned	16 oz tin	17.2	17.4	17.8	17.3
Spaghetti, canned	16 oz tin	17.2	17.4	17.8	17.3
Soup, tomato	16 oz tin	18.5	18.4	18.4	18.4
Sauce, tomato	10 oz bottle	22.7	22.8	22.9	22.8
Pickles, mustard	10 oz jar	24.1	24.5	24.4	24.2
Biscuits, wheatmeal	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	15.0	15.9	15.8	16.6
Biscuits, milk arrowroot	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	15.9	16.7	16.8	17.6
Biscuits, dry	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	16.5	17.1	17.3	18.1
Margarine, table	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	19.0	19.1	19.1	19.1
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Butter	1 lb	50.9	51.0	51.0	51.0
Cheese, cheddar, matured	8 oz pkt	30.0	32.5	32.5	32.0
Cheese, cheddar, processed	8 oz pkt	23.8	25.5	25.3	25.5
Eggs (24 oz in carton)	dozen	63.8	64.5	59.8	57.9
Bacon, rashers, pre-pack	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb	49.5	51.9	50.0	52.9
Milk, condensed	14 oz tin	20.9	21.1	21.4	22.2
Milk, powdered	12 oz tin	37.0	38.4	38.4	38.4
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered)	1 quart	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
<u>Meat</u>			Quarter Ended September 1967		
Beef, Sirloin, roast	lb	56.3		58.1	
" , Rib, roast (without bone)	lb	48.1		50.8	
" , Steak, rump	lb	74.3		77.4	
" , Steak, chuck	lb	45.3		47.9	
" , Steak, blade	lb	55.8		57.5	
" , Sausages	lb	25.6		27.3	
" , Silverside, corned	lb	51.2		53.7	
" , Brisket, corned	lb	38.8		40.9	
Mutton, leg	lb	34.0		34.8	
" , shoulder	lb	20.7		21.6	
" , chops, loin	lb	33.4		34.6	
" , chops, leg	lb	34.3		34.9	
Lamb, leg	lb	49.4		51.2	
" , shoulder	lb	30.1		31.5	
" , chops, loin	lb	51.4		53.7	
" , chops, leg	lb	51.0		53.2	
Pork, leg	lb	58.9		61.4	
" , loin	lb	58.0		61.4	
" , chops	lb	58.3		61.7	